

THE BLURB

VER. 2.0

JULY 2014

NEWSLETTER OF THE PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB



Fireworks in the City of Brotherly Love

Just as it was in the summer of 1776 in this fair City, a new beginning is being hammered out at the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club. The Framers were not in perfect concert back then

(far from it actually) and the process was not always pretty. However compromises were made, common sense employed, and the reasonable voices prevailed. The cumulative efforts of those wise and rational men resulted in something far greater than the sum of the individual parts.

For that we should all be thankful.

So as we celebrate the birth of our Nation it is a fitting time to also introduce the new Blurb, humbly submitted here for your reading enjoyment and well suited to wrapping fish or lining birdcages.

You will find some new features in the Blurb, and a little different for-

mat, but all the essentials are still there. This is your newsletter, so any and all suggestions are welcomed and encouraged. You are also encouraged to submit your articles, projects, news, or anything else you would like to share with the Group. It does not have to be professional grade (this is AMATEUR radio after all) and we can clean it up for you if need be.

So there you have it! Chime in and let us know what you think of the new format, and keep those cards and letters coming!

73,

Editor X

* [Click LINKS in this Publication to see More Information](#)

Long Time Editor ND3B Retires

This issue marks the retirement of our esteemed and long time Editor Rick (ND3B). Over the years we have all benefited from his dedication, sense of humor, and long hours of hard work assembling, proofing, editing, re-editing, and producing

the Blurb each month.

Much more than just an Editor, Rick has set the tone and as a result he has been the defacto voice of Phil-Mont. He has helped shape innumerable articles, surmounted technical challenges, put up with last

minute Contributors, and a non-working elevator at Blurb HQ. Those of us who follow have a large task on our hands, and we can only hope to achieve a small fraction of all he has done for this Club and its Membership. [Thank you Rick!](#)



In this Issue:

- [Editor ND3B Retires](#)
- [Space the Final Frontier](#)
- [Fox Hunting - Everything You Always Wanted to Know But were Afraid to Ask.](#)
- [Prez' Sez'- FD 2014](#)
- [Birthdays and Tidbytes](#)
- [Humor—Any Day You Have a Big Laugh is a Good Day](#)
- [The Makers](#)

Index:

Birthdays and Tidbytes	2
Joe Taylor Talk	2
(Rank) Amateur Humor	3
How do You Catch a Fox?	3
Prez' Sez'	4
Minutes General & BOD	5
Club Info/Nets/Meetings	9



Gift Suggestions.....

Phil-Mont Birthdays and Tidbytes

July Birthdays

02 Ted Katz - N3OWM
Alice Popovic (XYL W3AOK)
03 Nicole Bohlander (XYL WA3KLR)

07 Sharon Brem-N3SG (XYL K3YV)
10 Natalie Gordon - WB3KOH

23 Art Weiner - WX3PHI
25 Jinny Haring - W3IIN
26 Mai-Lin (XYL N3BKR)
27 Robert Hill - KB3HNB
29 Jim Larkin - KA2FFP
31 Steve Hoch - WU3I

Congratulations to Chief Examiner and VE Team Liaison Jim (NS3K) for once again being listed among the Nation's top VEs in QST.

The next VE Test Session is Thursday evening the 24th of July @ 7:00 PM. Thanks

Did You Know....

"OSCAR-1, was launched on December 12, 1961."

Here's a startling fact — more than 70 Amateur Radio satellites have been launched over four decades. The number is astonishing because these sophisticated and

groundbreaking space-craft are little known outside the ham radio fraternity. In fact, private groups of Amateur Radio operators around the globe have built and

sent dozens and dozens of Amateur Radio communications and science satellites to orbit since the first, OSCAR-1, was launched on December 12, 1961.



Dr. Joe Taylor K1JT

Joe Taylor K1JT to Speak in September

It's not every day that Phil-Mont has a Nobel Prize winning Speaker come talk to us, but thanks to Barry (K3EUI) Nobel Laureate Dr. Joe Taylor of Princeton University is scheduled to do just that! Dr. Taylor will be speaking to a joint session of Phil-Mont

and the Chester County ARES/RACES this Fall.

When: Saturday September 20, 2014 @ 1000
Where: Cafeteria in the Chester County Government Building, 601 Westtown Rd. West Chester, PA.

What: A Talk on Digital Modes - Including a Live Demonstration - Load the Software here & Bring Your Laptops!

There is limited seating, if you want to attend contact Barry (K3EUI) or KA3IRJ by August 15th.

The Master of the Hunt to Speak

Be sure to mark your calendars so you can attend the September General Meeting (9/10) as we have a very interesting program scheduled. Jim (K3CHJ) "Master of the Hunt" for the [Pottstown Amateur Radio Club](#) will be our guest Speaker and will share with us things he has learned from many years of running a very successful Fox Hunting program.

[A Fox Hunt](#), for those not familiar, is a radio direction

finding exercise. A radio transmitter ([the Fox](#)) is hidden and the general area is defined in advance. Participants using directional antennas then track the Fox either on foot or by car and try to determine its exact location. Attenuators can be used to help determine the specific location of the Fox when tracking stations get close.

Fox Hunting is a great way to promote Member participation, knowledge of an-

tennas and circuit design, and it is a fun way to get some needed exercise while enjoying the Great Outdoors!

After Jim's talk, if there is sufficient interest, PMRC may host its own Fox Hunt, perhaps near our traditional Field Day site. You can find out more about [Fox Hunting at this link](#), and if you are interested in getting involved please contact Fred (KA3IRJ) [here](#).



It is to Laugh....

A Programmer's wife sent him to the store with the following instructions:

"Honey, please pick up a loaf of bread, and if they have eggs get a dozen."

He returned home with (12) loaves of bread.

Question: How do you tell an extroverted Engineer?

Answer: They look at [your shoes](#) when they are talking to you.

You might be a ham if:

You can run your entire station at full capacity for a month off grid, but have given no thought to heat, light and beer cooling.

"Participants using directional antennas then track the Fox either on foot or by car and try to determine its exact location."



Yes, People Still do Build Things..

One of the greatest joys of being a Ham is building things. There is nothing quite so satisfying as seeing a piece of equipment you have built with your own hands come to life for the first time. Our entire [hobby is based on experimentation](#), and the ranks of Builders and "Makers" who are active today is greater than

any time in our history.

Thousands attend "[Maker Fairs](#)" all over the Country and there are large online communities devoted to folks who like to design, build, repurpose and otherwise tinker with electronics and robotics. A [recent article](#) about the phenomena appeared in the

Huffington Post.

You [can do](#) it yourself, and our Club is full of Technical people who will be happy to help. Find a project that interests you and give it a go!

Perhaps it's time to clean off the bench and fire up the ole' soldering iron?

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Public Service since 1949

The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club is a dedicated group of Amateur Radio Operators with a long and proud heritage of public service, community involvement, and Technical leadership in the Greater Philadelphia area.

Sponsors of the W3QV Jim Spencer Memorial Repeater system we offer analog and digital radio networks that reach the Delaware Valley and beyond. Please feel free to use our machines:

147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz (Analog)

444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz

(Yaesu DR-1 Analog/Digital)



WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW-PHIL-MONT.ORG

Prez' Sez'



Two Parts Prepa- ration, One Part Perspiration ...

By the time you read this Field Day 2014 will be in the log books and I am sure a good time will have been had by all. Rain or Shine the annual call for Hams everywhere to "Be Prepared" is always an adventure.

Being prepared means we need

to eat, and we should all be grateful to Steve (WU3I) for all his hard work in buying, stocking, moving, and manning the FD chow line. It's a huge effort and he does it year after year - Thanks Steve! Also thanks to John (KB3SJS) for all his efforts in organizing the day and getting all the station assignments in place, also a lot of work and a job well done.

A newly constructed 15 meter antenna for the event looked pretty good in sweeps hoisted up on a telephone pole here at Areffe Knob today. I've also assembled a new "Go Kit" for Field Day and portable ops based on the ICOM IC-7000. The kit has an emphasis on simplicity, ease of transport, and quick set up. Field Day weekend will tell if the best laid plans of mice and men prove successful.

And that is really the heart of the event, building and improving our technical skills so that if need be, we can communicate when conventional infrastructure fails. A high score is nice, but what counts is being able to get and keep a good signal on the air. And fun...yes fun is a vital ingredient!

Field Day weekend is different things to different people. For Penny and me (and a lot of PMRC Members) it is a great weekend of camping out with good friends and playing radio a bit. Some are more prepared and experienced than others and help setup stations, and in the process teach those of us (like me) who have a lot to learn. But it is always a good time and we'll all get back home tired but happy.
(continued Pg. 7)

From the Secretary

GENERAL MEETING, WEDNESDAY 6/11/14

THE Meeting was called to order by Steve, WU3I after 7:30 PM as the President, Fred KA3IRJ, was stuck in traffic.

WU3I went over items for Field Day including taking a count of those who will be in attendance so he can prepare the proper amount of meals. All are welcome to attend. If you need to attend after dark someone will be manning the talk in on 147.03. Just give them a call and they will send someone down to unlock the gate to let you in.

John, KB3SJS stated that all the Band Captains are in place for field day. Ed, KB3IV is the 10 meter Band Captain. If you are not at scheduled operator and want to operate just let a Band Captain or some one else know and well get you in the seat for a little while. Everyone is welcome to operate.

Andrew, KC2PMW talked about the MS 150 coming up soon. Volunteers are needed. Please have at least a 25 Watt mobile rig and 1/4 wave or better mobile antenna. When assigned a post it would be a good idea to scout out the area before the event. Remember when you go on post it will be DARK so know your surrounding before you get there. Bring any snacks or other items you feel that you may need for the time you are on your assigned post. If you are staying for both days lodging will be provided.

Fred KA3IRJ called for a Board of Directors meeting immediately following the General Meeting.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, WEDNESDAY 6/11/14

Club President Fred KA3IRJ called the meeting to order immediately after the General Meeting.

In attendance were Fred KA3IRJ, Al W3STW, Jim NS3K, John KB3SJS, Bob KB2ERL, Dick W3RM

and Steve WU3I. As there were enough members present the meeting proceeded.

WU3I stated that before the meeting could proceed any further a recording Secretary was needed due to the resignation of Doug WA3DSP. The Board checked the By Laws and determined that the Board needed to appoint a Secretary to fill the current vacancy.

KA3IRJ nominated Greg WA3GM to the position of Secretary. The nomination was seconded by Steve WU3I and unanimously approved by the Board.

KA3IRJ brought up to the Board for the need to have an accurate data base that could be accessible by all Club Members. This info would be on the CLOUD and Members would be able to change their information on an as needed basis. Fred asked the Board to have Ed KB3IV turn over all data base information to him so he could assemble same into a new format to present to the Board. A discussion ensued as to the security of the information and who could access what information. KA3IRJ assured the Members that the information would be secure and individuals could only access the info but only change their specific information.

NS3K made a motion to the Board to turn the data base over to Fred KA3IRJ. This information is to stay in KA3IRJ's possession until such time as he brings the information, when complete in its new format, back to the Board. The Board will then determine what further action will be taken with the database. This information is also to be given to N3QV and the Treasurer NS3K. This motion was seconded by WU3I and all were in favor.

As there was no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Malone WA3GM Secretary

New PMRC Membership

Andrew "Andy" Neustadter KC3CXT
1710 Oakwood Terrace Apt 4F
Penn Valley, PA 19072
610-892-7896 ARRL Member

WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW-PHIL-MONT.ORG

For Sale

1/8" (290#) & 3/16" (380#) Dark Olive Drab Braided Cord · 100% Polyester/Dacron Knit Braided. Nice stuff! Tough and long lasting · UV Resistant and Low Stretch Proudly Made in the U.S.A.! Contact Steve WU3I at wu3i@arrl.net or 215-605-6074

125ft RG-213U w/connectors WA3IFY Jay 215-289-4531

(2) Yaesu FT-2800 2 Meter Rigs in PERFECT condition. Fully tested and ready to go. All original accessories included: Microphone, Clip, Bracket, and Cables. Manuals are also included, as are the Original Factory Cartons. \$125.00 Each Including delivery or insured shipping to your address. Contact Fred [@610-310-2877">KA3IRJ](mailto:KA3IRJ) or red@ksecorp.com

Important Dates to Mark in Your Calendars

July at Phil-Mont

- 4 Fri Independence Day
(George III was peeved!)
- 6 Sun K3XS Net Control
- 13 Sun W3MHP Net Control
- 20 Sun KB3IV Net Control
- 24 Thursday VE Session
- 27 Sun KB3SJS Net Control



License Examinations are held on the fourth **non-holiday Thursday** each month at

Community Ambulance Association, 1414 E. Butler Pike, Ambler PA 19002

Registration begins at 7:00 P.M. Applicants should contact Jim McCloskey NS3K at 215-275-2979 or jmccloskey@msn.com for the latest information.

Prez' Sez'

(con't from Pg. 4)

Field Day lasts a weekend, but the memories last a lifetime.

On the home front (but also in the spirit of being prepared) our [Technical Users Group \(CSTG\)](#) here in Sunbury is putting up (2) new repeaters at the Farm. One will be an [APRS repeater](#) bridging a substantial coverage gap in the area, and the other is a Yaesu DR-1 digital hybrid machine identical to the one recently installed at Phil-Mont. The last part of the puzzle was solved when we found suitable duplexers at a



Missed Field Day this year? FD 2015 will be held the last full weekend in June (27-28th), so start planning now. Assembling a portable station is neither difficult or expensive for the average Ham, and the experience has many benefits.

If you need help or to learn more about how to get started, [please click this link](#).



good price at a local Hamfest. The APRS machine will be mounted outside in the temperature controlled pole enclosure shown here, with its antenna on the pole above at about 1100 ft. MSL. The DR-1 will reside in a rack in my ham shack with its antenna mounted on a 52 ft. tower. Both will have emergency backup power with dedicated solar panels to keep their batteries charged.

Speaking of keeping our batteries charged, this month marks the half-way point in my tenure as PMRC President and as I look back I am quite proud of all the Board has been able to accomplish. In the first six months we've obtained and installed a new (FREE!) DR-1 [digipeater](#) courtesy of Yaesu USA, booked a Nobel Laureate as a Speaker, started a school outreach program, launched a new and improved Blurb, and increased Membership dramatically.

A new database system and updated Membership stats will soon be in place as well, helping us grow those numbers even more. And that new blood will continue to rejuvenate our Club. Some of those new Members (like Al AB3CE) and Stefan (KB3VLY) are already quite active, which is a good thing for them and for PMRC.

Finally please remember to mark your calendars for the September 20th talk by [Joe Taylor](#), and also be sure to attend the September Meeting (9/10) which will feature PARC's "Master of the Hunt" Jim Toth (K3CHJ) who will be doing a presentation on [Fox Hunting](#).

I already have the [Fox](#) on the bench, so get ready for some more outdoor fun this fall!

In the meantime, be well and I'll

73, Fred [KA3IRJ](#)

see you on the airwaves!



Local Tech - The Fuge

For those who have not been, right in our backyard we have a very interesting historical site that played an important part in the US Space Program and military projects.

Located in Warminster, PA, the World's Largest Human Centrifuge has been repurposed into a really neat meeting space, and the [Southeastern Pennsylvania Cold War Historical Society](#) holds their meetings there.

Astronauts from the Apollo, Gemini, and Mercury Programs all trained here, and a lot of the original equipment (including the centrifuge itself of course) is still there for you to see.

[Doug \(WA3DSP\)](#) is your contact for more information, and the program schedule can be accessed through [this link](#).

When you walk the floor of the Fuge and look up at that huge boom, or sit in the Control Room remembering this is the same space frequented by men who walked on the Moon, it is a truly an awe inspiring experience.



The Officers

President (KA3IRJ) Fred Uebelhoer Jr. fred@ksecorp.com
Vice President: (W3STW) Al Tribble wstw@juno.com
Treasurer: (NS3K) Jim McCloskey jmcclloskey@msn.com
Secretary: (WA3GM) Greg Malone wa3gm@aol.com

For club information:

Contact any club officer,
or call on the repeaters.
Address or club directory
changes and articles for
the membership e-mail list
should be sent to: **KA3IRJ**

Sunday Morning Net Schedules

- **2 Meter/ 70cm Net**..... at 0930L on W3QV repeater
- **10-on-10 Net** at 1000L 28.393 MHz USB
(±QRN)
- **75 meter Net** at 1020L 3.993 MHz LSB

ARES at 2100L on the W3QV repeater

DIGITAL Net: Tuesdays at 7PM on the W3QV Repeat-



All visitors are welcome!

The club meets at 7:30 PM on the **second non-holiday Wednesday** each month except July and August at
Roxborough Memorial Hospital, 5800 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19128

Maps and directions are available at www.phil-mont.org.

Expanded Digital Education

Tune in to the 147.030 (PL 91.5) repeater every **TUESDAY** evening at 7:00PM for sessions of the
Digital Education Net.

We are using sound-card based audio tones, which work well with any analog repeater.

For the past month we have been learning two programs:

JT65- HF written by a guy out in California
JT65/JT9 written by Joe Taylor himself.

Both seem to work well on the FM repeater.

Contact Barry K3EUI for More Information

THE BLURB VER. 2.0

P.O. BOX 253
SUNBURY, PA 17801

First Class Mail

There Will be No General Meeting in July or August—But this Could Change!